

4412(1) MAIDSTONE

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.



ANNUAL REPORT

for

1936

on the

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the

Medical Officer of Health.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Maidstone.

Maidstone:
W. P. DICKINSON & SON, LTD., Printers and Stationers, HIGH STREET.

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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1936.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year 1936.

The health of the Town during the past year has, in general, been good, and in 1936 the incidence of infectious disease has happily been low. The death rate for the year, 11·2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, though above that recorded in 1935, is below the rate for the whole of England and Wales, 12·1 per 1,000, that of the 122 great towns, which is 12·3 or of the 143 smaller towns which is recorded as 11·5 per 1,000. The infantile death rate per 1,000 live births, of 54·6, though it has risen above that shown for 1935, is still below the average for the country of 59 per 1,000, while the maternal death rate of 1·39 per 1,000 births compares well with the rate for England and Wales of 3·65.

There has been a further advance in the provision of houses and especially in the building of houses by private enterprise, in which there has been a welcome revival and further progress has been made in the improvement or demolition of unsatisfactory property. There is still a need for more houses and a shortage of housing accommodation for the poorer members of the community, at rents which they can afford. The trade and population of the Town is growing and the supply of houses has not yet overtaken the demand and the immediate result of the coming into operation of the overcrowding regulations will be to accentuate the need for more working-class dwellings.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and especially the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the kindness and consideration shown me in my illness in the Spring of 1937. One of the results of my having been laid aside for a time is that this report is somewhat late in appearing, for which I ask your indulgence. To the Corporation, to the Committees which are concerned with Public Health matters, to my colleagues on the Corporation Staff and to my fellow medical practitioners in the Borough, I again offer my sincere thanks for the help and encouragement I have received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MAIDSTONE,

June 2nd, 1937.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1936-1937.

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P.)

Alderman W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

„ W. DAY, J.P.

Councillor W. DAY.

Councillor S. J. LYLE.

„ T. HUNTER.

„ P. WAKEFIELD.

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE, J.P.

„ B. J. WATSON.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1936-1937.

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P.)

Alderman W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

„ W. DAY, J.P.

Councillor W. DAY.

Councillor B. J. WATSON.

„ T. HUNTER.

Mrs. FOSTER CLARK.

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE, J.P.

Mrs. R. B. HAYNES.

„ S. J. LYLE.

Mrs. G. C. DEVAS.

„ P. WAKEFIELD.

Miss MARJORIE HAYNES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

DORA F. ROSE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

W. A. N. Baker, M.C., A.R.S.I.,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

G. S. Adams, A.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Health Visitors.

Miss A. Snoddon—State Registration Certificate, General Nursing; State Registration Certificate, Sick Children's Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors. (Resigned 21/3/36.)

Miss M. B. Thomas—State Registration Certificate, General Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors. (Resigned 30/4/36.)

Miss E. M. Reid—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Miss M. Jackson—State Registration Certificate General Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors. (Appointed 4/4/36.)

Miss J. Tindale—State Registration Certificate General Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors. (Appointed 9/5/36.)

Public Analyst.

E. M. Hawkins, Canterbury, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Veterinary Officer.

C. Crowhurst, M.R.C.V.S.

Matron of Isolation Hospital.

Miss L. Bennett.

Clerks.

R. J. Davis, S. V. Carr.

H. H. Moule, R. S. Yates

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—5,972 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1936—46,980.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1936) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, 12,295.

RATEABLE VALUE—£428,781.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—£1,700.

Maidstone has maintained its position as a busy and prosperous country town and the centre of a flourishing agricultural area. Paper-making, which has long been associated with Maidstone, has become of even greater importance since the local mills have increased the output of newsprint, while brewing and the production of confectionery and the ready-prepared foods which are popular with the modern house-wife have continued to be active industries in the town. There has been a welcome resumption of work in the engineering trade and in Maidstone there has been work to be done, and money to be earned and spent, to an extent one would wish was more general throughout the country. There has been some unemployment, but the nutritional state of the children in the Maidstone schools reaches a satisfactory level. During the year, only 4 cases were found at inspections in which the nutrition was classified as “Bad” while those shown as “Slightly sub-normal” amount to but 8% of the total. This gratifying state of affairs is a monument to the self-sacrifice of the parents in many cases, and to the house-keeping ability of many mothers, but malnutrition and poor physical development are more often the result of overcrowding and poor housing conditions than of unemployment.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	668	334	334
Illegitimate	28	14	14
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...	14.8		

STILLBIRTHS.	25	12	13
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	34.7		

DEATHS	573	268	305
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...	11.2		

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	—	—
No. 30 other puerperal causes	1	1.39
Total	1	1.39

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age;—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	54.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	52.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	107.1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	3
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	3
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	78

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(1) The particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority are set out at the beginning of the Report.

(ii) *a.* LABORATORY FACILITIES. As recorded in previous reports laboratory provision for bacteriological and pathological work is made by the Kent County Council. The laboratory at the Sessions House has been removed to more suitable and spacious quarters in the new building and further services, particularly in the examination of samples of milk, are now available. The Borough of Maidstone is very fortunate in having so complete a laboratory service at hand.

(ii) *b.* **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.** For accidents and non-infectious sickness cases the Maidstone Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade provides an efficient service which has been described in previous reports, while for infectious cases, the ambulance located at the Infectious Diseases Hospital is available. In the provision of any new ambulance cars, care has been taken to ensure that they shall be capable of taking the service pattern of stretcher, so that in the event of the Air Raid precautions coming into operation all these ambulances would be available.

(ii) *c.* **NURSING IN THE HOME.** The existing arrangements for home nursing, by the two nurses attached to the West Kent Hospital, have been detailed in previous reports and during the past year these nurses have continued to do good work. There is a considerable feeling that more extensive provision of home nursing is needed and the formation of a District Nursing Association, to be affiliated to the Queen's Jubilee Nurses Association, is suggested and will probably be in operation very shortly.

(ii) *d.* **CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

(*u*) **Maternity and Child Welfare.** The three existing Centres—at the Old Palace, at Barming and at Mangraves, have continued to work with great success. The Antenatal Centre at the Old Palace has continued to do good work, but there is an apparent reluctance on the part of the midwives practising in the town to visit the centre with their patients. The pre-school clinic at the Old Palace is slowly increasing in usefulness, but the attendance there, as recorded, does not represent the whole number of the pre-school children who have been seen at the Centres, for in a large number of cases these “Toddlers” come on the days devoted to Infant welfare, being brought at the same time as the baby comes to be seen. The Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Rose, has been in charge of the Centres and her departure from Maidstone will be much regretted. The voluntary helpers, who have given so much valuable assistance in the past, have continued—and I hope will continue—their much appreciated help in the working of the scheme.

(*v*) **Tuberculosis.** The Kent County Council tuberculosis scheme operates in the Borough and the Dispensary at Station Road, Maidstone, is widely used, while the facilities for X-ray examination at Lenham Sanatorium provide this very essential adjunct to the work of the Dispensary.

(w) Venereal Diseases Clinic. This is also provided by the County Council, the Clinic at Chatham being used for the Maidstone area.

(x) School Clinics Minor ailments. For each area of the Borough served by a Central School, there is now a minor ailment clinic: for the West Borough area, at 13, Tonbridge Road, for the South Borough area at South Borough Central School and for the North end of the town, at North Borough School. At these clinics, the total attendances in the year was 4,607 and the number of individual children treated was 1,097. These clinics have continued to do excellent work in the treatment of minor maladies and injuries, which would otherwise have caused loss of school attendance.

(y) Dental Clinics. The dental clinics have continued on the line set out in previous reports, but as I mentioned in the Report of 1935, the Education Committee decided on the appointment of a whole-time dental surgeon. On July 1st, 1936, the Officer selected, Mr. Oliver Heywood, L.D.S., took up his duties in the Borough. I regret that the Committee did not entirely accept the suggestion that a whole-time Dental Surgeon was needed but modified the scheme to allow the Officer appointed to be employed for two half-days per week for the County Education Authority. Already there is a gratifying increase in the amount of dental inspection and treatment that can be done, and particularly an increase in the proportion of conservative work as compared with extractions, but the amount of dental work waiting to be done among our Borough children, as revealed by dental inspection, make me say plainly that the whole time of the dentist is needed for the Maidstone schools, with no time to spare for the work in the surrounding districts.

(z) Orthoptics and Orthopædies. These clinics have been established at the local hospitals and much benefit has been obtained by cases referred there.

The report on the School Medical Service for 1936 has already been published and particulars of the work done at these clinics are found therein. Details of the Infant Welfare work are set out overleaf.

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1936

No. of first visits paid to the homes of Infants	...	...	...	559
„ return „ „ „	...	...	...	1553
„ return „ „ Children	...	...	...	3307
„ first visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	126
„ return „ „	...	...	...	170
„ visits re removal, death of child, stillbirth, etc.	...	...	...	142
Attendances of Mothers at Old Palace	...	...	...	4847
„ Infants „	...	...	...	3331
„ Children „	...	...	...	2423
„ Mothers at Barming	...	...	...	1228
„ Infants „	...	...	...	608
„ Children „	...	...	...	804
„ Mothers at Mangravet	...	...	...	790
„ Infants „	...	...	...	356
„ Children „	...	...	...	733
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	...	102
„ Barming	...	...	...	52
„ Mangravet	...	...	...	50
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	...	52
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	...	155
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	...	298
Number of Health Talks given	...	...	...	7
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	...	2312
„ „ „ Barming	...	...	...	791
„ „ „ Mangravet	...	...	...	774
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	...	...	...	56.42
„ Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	...	22.67
„ Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	...	...	...	23.30
„ Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	...	...	15.20
„ Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet	...	...	...	21.78
„ Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	...	15.48
Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	...	450
„ Infants „	...	...	...	193
„ Children „	...	...	...	369
„ Mothers „ Barming	...	...	...	98
„ Infants „	...	...	...	31
„ Children „	...	...	...	74
„ Mothers „ Mangravet	...	...	...	76
„ Infants „	...	...	...	32
„ Children „	...	...	...	78
Pre-School Clinic Attendances (3-5 years of age)	...	...	...	86
Individual Children	...	...	...	22
Average Attendance	...	...	...	7.17

(ii) *e.* HOSPITALS. Details of the voluntary hospitals, general and special, in the district have been given in previous annual reports, so that there is no necessity for recapitulation of these descriptions. The population of the Borough has made very full use of the hospitals during 1936 and the number of road accident cases which have to be admitted is a severe strain on the available beds. The County Hospitals, at Coxheath, at Pembury and the Medway Hospital also serve this area. The hospital accommodation for which the Local Authority is directly responsible is the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fant Lane and the Maternity Ward at the West Kent General Hospital. In the annual reports for several years, I have commented on the inadequacy of the Infectious Diseases Hospital. An increase in the number of beds, the provision of cubicle wards and possibly of private wards, the reconstruction and enlargement of the nurses' quarters and the administrative block and new and enlarged kitchens, with modern cooking and refrigeration apparatus and the re-building of the laundry, are all needed. But though the Health Committee are well aware that these improvements are necessary, the situation appears to be one of stale-mate. In 1932, the County Council's survey of the isolation hospitals was carried out and after some abortive negotiations with the local authorities, the question of what is to be the future of the Maidstone Isolation Hospital and others, seems to have come to a standstill and naturally the Maidstone Council is loth to spend money on the improvement of their hospital, until the future position of this hospital is finally settled.

The provision of the requisite beds for maternity cases at the West Kent Hospital is in a much more satisfactory position, for as mentioned in my last report, a new Maternity Ward of 16 beds, with the necessary labour wards and isolation ward, is in progress of construction at the hospital and should be ready for occupation in the early autumn of 1937. Of this unit, one half is to be available for cases from the Borough, under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, and this plan of attaching the maternity beds to be provided, to the local hospital, instead of establishing a separate municipal maternity home, is, in my opinion, a logical method of combining public and voluntary hospital service.

3 (i). MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES. The number of midwives practising in the Borough is 11, and the supervision and inspection of the midwives is in the hands of the County Health Department. They are not employed or subsidised at present by the Local Authority but I would urge again that, where a Local Authority is the authority for maternity and child welfare, the supervision and inspection of midwives and especially the appointment and employment of the whole-time salaried midwives under the new Midwives Act, 1936, should be entrusted to the

same authority, whose knowledge of local conditions and requirements is bound to be greater than is possible for a more distant body such as the County Council and whose organisation of M. & C.W. Centres and Ante and Post-natal clinics is an essential factor in the improvement of the midwifery service and the reduction of maternal mortality.

I give below the number of births in Maidstone and the maternal mortality rate for the past 8 years :—

Year.	No. of Births.	Maternal deaths.	Maternal death rate.
1929	647	—	—
1930	680	2	2·94
1931	668	—	—
1932	665	2	3·01
1933	603	2	3·32
1934	654	4	6·11
1935	675	2	2·96
1936	721	1	1·39

It will thus be seen that the average maternal death rate for the past 8 years is 2·45. This is not a high figure, but it is capable of improvement and this improvement should, and must, be obtained.

3 (ii). INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. During the past year there has been no alteration or development of the institutional accommodation for mothers and children. Some use has been made of various charitable agencies to obtain convalescent treatment for children in need of change of air, and also of the sea-side institutions of the Public Assistance Committee while the Education Authority has arranged for the education of four physically defective children at special residential schools. The "Pre-school" clinic is becoming of greater value in the care of toddlers and the prevention and early treatment of defects and following on the recommendations made to the Health Committee, on the receipt of Circular 1550, provision has been made in the estimate for 1937-38, for the appointment of an additional Health Visitor and School Nurse, to the end that an increased amount of home visiting will be possible. But as I have indicated in previous reports to the Council and to the Education Committee, I am of opinion that the care and supervision of children between two and five years of age is bound up with the provision of day nurseries and of nursery schools and classes, and that in Maidstone, such provision is very desirable.

3 (iii). HEALTH VISITORS. The number of nurses employed as Health Visitors in the Borough at present is 3. These nurses combine the duties of Health Visitor and School Nurse and each has an allotted area of the town in her care. This plan of combining the duties has worked well and the result has been a distinct advantage to the nurses in increased interest and variety of the

work and to the Borough in an economy of time and travelling and the avoiding of overlapping. As noted above, an additional Health Visitor and School Nurse is to be appointed, and this increase of staff is badly needed to cope with the growth of the work and the wider area of the town.

3 (iv). **INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.** Each of the Nurses employed by the Corporation as Health Visitors also undertakes duty as Visitor under the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children & Young Persons Act, 1932, and in the area for which she is responsible as Health Visitor, also visits the boarded-out children. As a result, there has been a more satisfactory supervision of the foster-mothers and the boarded-out children and the care of these foster-children has been linked up with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The details of the administration of Part I of the Children Act, 1908, are tabulated below :—

Administration of Part I. of the Children Act, 1908, as ammended by Part V. of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year	33
(b) Number of children on the Register :—	
(i.) at the end of the year	38
(ii.) who died during the year ..	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year...	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were :—	
(i.) Health Visitors...	3
(ii.) Female, other than Health Visitors	1 School Nurse.
(iii.) Male	—
(d) Number of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Visitors under (c) above) or societies authorised to visit under the proviso to Section 2 (2) of the Act of 1908	—
(e) Proceedings taken during the year :—	
No. of Cases.	Act and Section under which proceedings were taken.
—	—
(f) Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year :—	
(i.) Under (a) of Section 3 of the Act of 1908 ...	—
(ii.) „ (b) „ „ ..	—
(iii.) „ (c) „ „ ...	—
(g) Number of orders obtained during the year under Section 67 of the Act of 1932 :—	
(i.) from a court of summary jurisdiction	—
(ii.) from a single justice	—

3 (v). In Maidstone, the provision for the treatment of orthopædic cases is at the clinic held at the West Kent General Hospital, and I have again to record my deep appreciation of the skilled treatment and willing help given to such cases by this department of the hospital and by the Surgeon in charge, Mr. Alan Todd, M.S., F.R.C.S. Cases needing orthopædic treatment are referred to the hospital from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and from the School Medical Department and during the year under review, the following cases have received treatment :—

Old infantile paralysis	2
Talipes	4
Knock-knee	1
Bow-legs	3
Deformities of feet	6
Tuberculosis, bones and joints	1
Sundry fractures... ..	3
Scoliosis	2
Torticollis... ..	2
Various	9
	<hr/>
	33
	<hr/>

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1 (i). WATER. The public water supply in the Borough of Maidstone is furnished by the Maidstone Water Company, from the various sources of supply which it controls, consisting of deep wells and springs, whence the water is pumped to reservoirs and elevated tanks, for distribution. In the past year, the supply has been satisfactory and constant, and no restriction of the consumption of water was necessary at any time.

The gathering grounds, springs and reservoirs of the Company are regularly and constantly patrolled by their own staff. During the year, inspections of the sources, reservoirs and pumping stations were made by myself, in company with the Engineer and the Consulting Bacteriologist to the Water Company, Professor Eyre. At each inspection, the whole of the works, including the pumping stations and the reservoirs were found to be in a most commendable state. The purity of the water is controlled by bacteriological examination and the results of the examination of samples from the various sources are tabulated at the end of the report. The results have been very satisfactory and at Ewell, the chlorination of the water has been continued as an additional safeguard, and this is a measure taken for additional security. Chemical analysis of the water have also been carried out and these results are also shown in the tables.

As reported before, there have been complaints of a discolored sediment in the water in some parts of the town, especially when there has been any disturbance of the mains. This is due to the presence of iron in the water from one source and to remove this cause of complaint, the Company are installing a filtering plant to remove the cause of this discoloration. The new source at Boxley, of which mention was made in the report for 1935, has made good progress and an ample supply from this boring should soon be available. At this source, as it is water drawn from the chalk strata, an installation for ozonising of the water before use is being provided.

Below is a table showing the average results of the chemical analyses of the water during the year.

Average results, 1936.	BOARLEY.	COSSINGTON.	FORSTAL.	EWELL.
Total Solid Residue	25.47	22.88	37.79	30.30
Chlorine	1.55	1.28	2.22	1.92
Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.43	0.21	0.24	0.25
Nitrogen (Nitrites)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ammoniacal Ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iron	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxygen absorbed ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour at 27° C.)	0.002	0.002	0.0025	0.0019
" " (4 hours at 27° C.)	0.005	0.004	0.005	0.0039
Total Hardness	14.6	14.1	21.0	16.6

C. 1. (ii). DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Extensions of the town sewers have been laid during 1936 in Sittingbourne Road for 1,775 feet, in Hermitage Lane to a length of 1,580 feet and along the main London Road for a distance of 2,363 feet. The work of changing over houses which were formerly drained into cess-pits to connect with the sewers is proceeding in various places.

C. 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The Borough area is situated on the banks of the Medway and its tributary stream, the Len and in previous reports I have called attention to the state of both these rivers. The Medway is tidal up to Allington locks, just below the town, but at this point the river is held up by the locks, while the Len is held up at several points inside the Borough by the construction of dams and ponds. Above the town there is a certain amount of pollution from the discharge of sewage into the river Medway, while in Maidstone itself, the existence of several industrial undertakings on the banks of both rivers has been the cause of pollution by trade waste. This pollution is made more

serious by the fact that the flow of the river is held up by the locks. I am glad to report that these firms have been very ready to co-operate in the reduction of the pollution by trade waste, but various difficulties, notably lack of space at the mills, have proved a barrier to the complete solution of the problem. There has been an improvement in the Len for which the paper mills on the banks may take a large share of credit, but the obstacles to getting the ponds on the course of this stream cleansed have so far not been overcome.

C. 3 (i). CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The approximate number of premises equipped with each type* of sanitary convenience is shown in the table below. Most of the houses in the Borough are now connected with the sewer system and the remainder are generally situated in the out-lying parts of the area and especially in the parts recently added to the Borough. The conversion of these earth and pail closets to W.C.'s is making steady progress in each year.

W.C's discharging into sewer system	...	12,005
W.C's ,, ,, cesspools	...	209
Earth closets or privy middens	...	87
Pail closets ... ... ... ...	...	88

C. 3 (ii). PUBLIC CLEANSING. The arrangements for scavenging and the disposal of house refuse have continued to work satisfactorily. The collection of house refuse in Maidstone is carried out by contract, the vehicles used being covered, electrically-driven wagons which have proved satisfactory in the closely built areas. The disposal is by incineration at the new plant which has been described in former reports. During the year a new and larger baling press for the salvage of tins was installed and this has proved very efficient. The disposal works have proved adequate for all the refuse to be incinerated and there has been no nuisance.

C. 3 (iii). SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. I give below in tabular form, the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	17
Bakehouse inspections.....	10
Chimneys repaired	86
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided.....	30
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	43
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections	59
Common Lodging House inspections	27
Coppers repaired	35
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	3362
" choked and cleansed	872
" reconstructed	35
" tested with smoke	124
" " water.....	69
" inspection chambers provided	56
" " " airtight covers provided	69
" stoneware pipes laid	2364'
" iron pipes laid	36'
" trapped from sewer and ventilated	15
Dustbins provided.....	75
Factory, workshop, workplace and outworkers' premises inspected	148
Fresh air inlets provided.....	19
Grates renewed or repaired.....	29
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars.....	10
" floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	105
" shooting or guttering repaired or renewed	80
" roofs repaired.....	147
" rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered.....	439
" walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method	24
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases.....	112
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	346
" of work in progress ..	1877
Miscellaneous defects remedied	83
Mortar joints of brickwork repaired	463
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt ..	57
Poultry or animals removed	2
Schools inspected	9
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped ..	47
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	37
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	739
Stairs repaired	61
Stoneware gullies provided.....	21
Strainers provided to gullies ..	25
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired	75
" additional, provided	19
" flushing apparatus provided or repaired	87
" new pans and traps provided	46
" structural defects remedied ..	29
Water supplies provided.....	25
Window frames repaired.....	116
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and cords renewed ..	93
Vermionous rooms cleansed	267
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	38
Preliminary Notices served ..	185
Statutory Notices served.....	168

C. 3. (iv). SHOPS, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. During 1936, no action was taken under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to temperature and ventilation of shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences. I give below a tabular statement of the number of inspections of factories and workshops, showing the number of defects found, the action taken and the result.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries).	39	—	—
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	81	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	9	—	—
TOTAL.....	129	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : *				
Want of Cleanliness	18	18	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation. { Insufficient	4	1	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defective ..	2	2	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the outwork and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops) Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL.....	21	21	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

C. 3. (v). SMOKE ABATEMENT. Factory chimneys in the Borough have been a cause of complaint at various times and where necessary, observation has been made on such chimneys, with the object of securing abatement of the nuisance from the emission of black smoke to an excessive extent. I have found that the firms concerned have been most ready to take every possible precaution to prevent this cause of complaint and a message drawing attention to the chimneys meets with immediate response. The emission of fine grit from some chimneys is a difficult problem and where the fuel is of varying quality it is not easy to prevent this nuisance.

C. 3. (vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. The swimming baths open to the public in Maidstone consist of the public baths provided by the Corporation, at which there are two baths, large and small, for swimmers. These baths are very largely used and are made available to the school children under arrangement between the Baths Committee and the Education Committee. The premises are not of the modern type and have many faults of design, according to modern ideas, and improvement of the dressing boxes, the sanitary arrangements and the equipment for preliminary washing are needed. The water in the swimming pools is cleansed by the plant for continuous filtration and chlorination, as mentioned in my report for 1935, and, provided adequate and intelligent supervision is given to the plant, this is satisfactory. The state of the water in the baths is checked by bacteriological examinations.

There is a scheme for the provision of a new and up-to-date swimming pool in the town and the large use that is made of the present baths indicates that additional facilities are required. In the summer, there is much use of the river Medway for bathing, particularly in the reaches above the town, but until there is an improvement in the state of this river, this is hardly satisfactory.

The Boys Grammar School rejoices now in the possession of a swimming bath of its own. This was opened in 1936, and is used in the summer months only. The water in this pool also is purified by filtration and chlorination.

C. 3 (vii). ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. That this pest is now the object of so much interest and is no longer accepted as an inevitable affliction, is evidence of a new spirit among the population. Prior to the campaign for slum clearance, this plague appears to have been tolerated in resignation and comparative silence, but war against the bed bug is now declared in this country and only the lack of the "Sinews of war" can prevent a successful result. The habits and habitations of the bug are such as to make its eradication very difficult and the older houses, by their construction and fittings, provide many retreats for these

creatures. In new houses, constructional methods and materials should be selected in the light of our knowledge of this pest and saving of first cost should not outweigh the need for materials which will not harbour the insects. Also, when old and infested property is to be demolished, the houses should have vigorous treatment to destroy the bugs before demolition is commenced, for old bug-infested material, even firewood, may be the means of carrying the pests to fresh locations. Although it is a matter of difficulty to eradicate bugs once they are established in a house, it is a plain fact that their increase is invariably associated with a lack of cleanliness and that they can be prevented by the practice of vigorous and methodical house cleaning. Much destruction can be effected by the use of soap and water and a scrubbing brush.

During the year the following work in the eradication of bed bugs was carried out :—

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Council houses found to be infested | 23 |
| | Council houses disinfested :— | |
| | (a) by gassing with Hydrogen cyanide | 10 |
| | (b) by spraying and the burning of sulphur... | 13 |
| | Other houses disinfested by spraying | 38 |
| | Verminous households fumigated before removal | |
| | into a Council House | 17 |
| | Other houses fumigated with gas (slum clearance) | 16 |
| (2) | In the case of verminous Council houses which are already empty, or where the tenant is able to vacate the premises for the necessary 48 hours, disinfestation is carried out by means of Hydrogen Cyanide gas. In other cases the method adopted is by spraying with an insecticide and/or the burning of sulphur. | |
| (3) | All houses of families who are moving into Council houses are inspected for cleanliness before the removal of the family and where vermin are found, the furniture is disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide gas during the transfer. Bedding is treated at the steam disinfector. | |
| (4) | The fumigation of premises by Hydrogen Cyanide gas is carried out by a Contractor. | |

C. 3 (viii). PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The following premises which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations are found in the Borough :—

Common Lodging Houses	7
Slaughter Houses	16
Houses let in Lodgings	6
Cowsheds	10
Dairies and Milkshops	34

The common lodging houses and the houses let in lodgings have been the source of some difficulty in the past. The area is one in which there has always been, and, with the influx into the district of a large temporary population in the fruit and hop-picking seasons, probably always will be, a considerable number of migrants to be lodged. The overcrowding regulations will be of assistance in this problem and again I urge the need for municipal lodging house in Maidstone.

The slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and the dairies and milk-shops are closely supervised.

C. 3 (ix). RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928. There are four premises in the Borough where rag flock is used and these are inspected regularly.

C. 4. SCHOOLS. There are 18 Public Elementary Schools or Departments in the Borough and in 1936, the school population was 5,144, which is slightly below that for 1935.

SCHOOL HYGIENE. The school buildings which have been provided in recent years by the Education Authority are of a type which can be compared favourably with any in the country. Some which were built a good many years ago, and which at the time of their erection were regarded as being very up-to-date, are now criticised as lacking features which in a modern school are regarded as essential, but as far as the exigencies of site and design will permit, these deficiencies are being remedied. East Borough Central School, which has been worked under difficulties owing to lack of space, will find improved conditions when the Education Committee can transfer part of this school to the present Girls' Grammar School, on the completion of the new Grammar School premises. It is among the schools which are provided by organisations other than the Education Committee that the drawbacks and deficiencies of old and unsuitable buildings are more apparent. Some of these buildings fall far short of the requirements of a modern elementary school and, while in some cases the situation has been met with courage and determination and the expenditure necessary to improve the school premises has been made, in others, there appears to be a reluctance to perceive that there must be an extensive improvement of the buildings and equipment, in order that these schools may at least approach the standard of the other elementary schools in the town.

The new school which is intended to relieve Willington and St. Philip's Schools is very necessary and I trust that before very long, this new school will be available. At Willington the numbers are such that the capacity of the building is taken up to the utmost and as the distance from their homes makes it necessary for almost all the children to remain at school in the dinner hour, this crowded state of the school is the more regrettable.

The water supply of all the schools is from the Water Company's mains and, with the exception of Willington School where chemical closets are provided, all the schools are connected with the sewer system. In some of the schools, notably All Saints' C.E. School, improvement of the sanitary offices is very necessary. In sanitation as well as in other matters, the schools should be concerned with the education of the future citizens and school sanitary offices should be examples of the sanitary standard desired throughout the town, which by means of an educated public opinion, will be reached in the future years.

There are numerous private schools in the town and these are for the most part well equipped and housed in suitable buildings. There is a residential school, for children from "difficult homes," which is run by the Caldicott Community. This is located in the mansion at Mote Park and for this school the drainage is to a cess-pool.

The Boys' Grammar School is housed in new and excellent premises and the new buildings for the Girls' Grammar School, which have been so long awaited and required, are shortly to be completed.

School closure on account of infectious disease was not necessary during 1936, and has not been required for several years. In fact, I am hopeful that school closure for this cause will not be considered necessary again, for I am convinced that this course is no help in combatting an outbreak of infectious disease, but rather a hindrance. I am certain that school closure is an accelerating factor in the spread of infection while the swabbing and tracing of contacts and mild cases is helped by the fact that the children are in school and can be seen and examined.

SECTION D.

Housing.

During the past year there has been considerable activity in the provision of new houses, a total of 290 new houses having been erected in the Borough, of which 272 were built by private enterprise, while 18 were provided by the Corporation. The Borough Council has also erected 24 flats in the town.

Appended below is the statistical information regarding housing which is asked for by the Minister of Health.

Housing Statistics.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	303
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	303
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subsection (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	26
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ..	26
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	28
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	249

II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	156
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17, 18 AND 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	36
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	168
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	141
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 19 AND 21 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1935,—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	226
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	226
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	1587
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	15
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	36
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	223
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding.....	NIL
(e)	Other information with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report :—	

The preliminary survey of overcrowding in the Borough entailed a preliminary visitation of all the working-class houses in the area. For this purpose, all houses assessed at £30 or under were included. The enquiry was directed to the following points:—

Whether empty.

If occupied, the number of families and the number of persons in each family.

Number of rooms occupied by each family.

The magnitude of the work was such that two temporary enumerators were employed. This preliminary survey began on December 16th, 1935, and was completed on March 21st, 1936. On the completion of this work, the necessary measuring of rooms was commenced and this work is still in progress. The requisite information for landlords, for insertion in the rent books will thus be available and records can be compiled which not only show existing overcrowding but indicate the families where overcrowding is likely to occur, by reason of children growing up or of additions to the family. The average overcrowded family generally possesses smaller accommodation than the smaller family; the larger household cannot afford the rent of a large house and as a result, the smallest and cheapest house available is taken. Periodical surveys will have to be undertaken, because, on the one hand, families may increase and, on the other, may diminish as children grow up and leave home. The relief of overcrowding will take time and can be effected by the re-distribution

of the smaller overcrowded families and by provision of new and larger accommodation for the more seriously overcrowded. The worst cases should have priority and houses of a size sufficient for their needs must be available for them.

The total number of houses visited in the preliminary survey was 10,895, including 1,814 Council Houses. The total found to be overcrowded was 247,—113 Council houses and 134 other houses. The percentage of overcrowded houses was 2·3. The cases shown in 4 (c) above, where overcrowding has already been abated, have been relieved in various ways :—

- (1) Smaller overcrowded families have been moved into Council houses which were vacant.
- (2) Casual families from houses let-in-lodgings have moved on from the district.
- (3) Some members of the overcrowded families have married or left home and where the family was only just overcrowded, it has become unerowed.

The new cases notified during the year occurred where houses have been let or sub-let immediately after the survey and consequently were not notified as overcrowded on the Overcrowding Survey Report.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

E (a). MILK SUPPLY. The cowsheds in the Borough area are 10 in number and the dairies and milkshops total 32. These are inspected regularly and are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. During 1936, 59 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors and additional visits were paid by myself, while 46 samples of milk were taken for examination. Samples of the milk supplied to the Public Elementary Schools were also taken for bacteriological examination and this practice, while it is primarily intended to secure that a satisfactory supply is available for the schools, has an indirect result in a raising of the standard of the milk generally supplied in the town. The bulk of the milk sold in Maidstone is produced in the adjacent rural areas and during the past year, the Medical Officer of Health was also appointed as M.O.H. for the Hollingbourn Rural District, and this arrangement has simplified the supervision and control of some of the milk supplied in the Borough, both at the source and in distribution.

E (6). MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The number of slaughter-houses in the district is 16, of which 12 are registered and 4 are licensed. These slaughter-houses are visited frequently for inspection as to cleanliness, etc., and they are also under constant supervision when they are visited during the progress of slaughtering, for the inspection of meat. During the year, there were 739 inspections at the slaughter-houses, but I again urge that one of Maidstone's pressing needs is for a public abattoir, where all meat killed in the Borough for human consumption could be inspected. With the large number of slaughter-houses now existing, all in use at the same time and with only two Inspectors, it is impossible to secure the inspection of more than a proportion of the carcasses intended for food.

The number of carcasses inspected during the year totals 2,482 and this total is made up as follows:—

Cattle and cows	187
Calves	121
Sheep and lambs	911
Pigs	1263

and the number condemned, either the whole or parts of carcasses or organs, is as under:—

Entire carcasses	2	Cause: Tuberculosis
Parts of carcasses or organs	15	Cause: Tuberculosis 9
		Liver fluke 6

In addition 569 lbs. of beef were condemned:

Cause: Decompositon.

During the year, considerable quantities of food of various descriptions were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, all of which was surrendered and destroyed, included the following:—

Tinned foods, etc.	27 tons, 10 cwt., 1 qrs., 11 lbs.
Beef	4 cwt., 9 lbs.
Potatoes	1 cwt., 21 lbs.
2 pigs	5 cwt., 1 qrs., 2 lbs.
36 hams	
1 cow	9½ cwts.
4 turkeys	
27 lbs. liver	
3 gallons, 2 pints shrimps	
1 beast's lung	
8 pig's heads	

ADULTERATION Etc.

Samples of various articles as shown in the following list were taken and examined with the results as given below :—

Article.	Number.	Number Genuine.
Milk	16	14
Butter	7	3
Lard Substitute	2	2
Lard	3	3
Margarine	6	6
Sausages	3	3
Certified Milk	9	7
Pepper... ..	1	1
Whisky	3	3
Brandy	2	2
Gin	1	1
Mustard	1	1
Tin Cream	2	2
Skimmed Milk	1	1
Salmon and Tomato Paste	1	1
Olive Oil	1	1
Camphorated Oil	1	1
Cod Liver Oil	1	1
Hydrogen Peroxide	1	1
Boracic Crystals	1	1
Boracic Ointment	1	1
Chemical Food	1	1
Bottled Coffee	1	1
Strawberry Jam	1	1
	97	89

There were no prosecutions during the year.

E (d). CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The chemical analysis of food samples is carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. E. M. Hawkins, F.I.C., F.C.S., at Canterbury, and the bacteriological examinations required are made at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

E (e). NUTRITION—DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE.

During the year, a series of lectures on nutrition and cookery, especially for infants and young children, were arranged in conjunction with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, for the Mothers attending the Centres. In this, we received valuable help from the Electricity Department and the Maidstone Gas Company.

SECTION F.

**Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious
and other Diseases.**

F (2). During 1936, the health of the inhabitants of Maidstone was good and the incidence of notifiable disease did not reach anything like epidemic proportions. The incidence of scarlet fever was rather greater than last year but was below the figures for 1934 or 1933. The cases were all of a mild type and there no deaths. Of the 48 cases notified, 43 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and the remainder were nursed in their own homes.

The cases of diphtheria notified numbered 47 and all these were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. In previous reports I have drawn attention to the fact that the number of cases notified in Maidstone and the demands on the beds in the Borough Isolation Hospital are made greater by the number of cases sent from the various hospitals in the town. During the past year, 18 cases of diphtheria and two cases of scarlet fever were from the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, while four cases of diphtheria were transferred to the Isolation Hospital from the Kent County Mental Hospital. If these cases are subtracted from the totals given above, the incidence figures for the Borough are certainly much more satisfactory.

I regret to record three deaths from diphtheria and again I have to draw attention to the fact that there is no justification for delay in the administration of anti-toxin. Supplies of this are available to any medical practitioner on demand, at the Isolation Hospital, at the Health Department Office and at the Borough Police Station. I urge again that it is neither necessary nor desirable to wait for laboratory diagnosis in a suspicious case, but that the anti-toxin should be used without delay. But it is very rarely that I find that anti-toxin has been given prior to removal to the Isolation Hospital, even where the report on the swab is positive.

Twelve cases of pneumonia were notified, but as there were 34 deaths recorded from this cause, it would appear that the notifications of this disease are not of value and do not represent the incidence of the disease. Fourteen notifications of erysipelas were received, but of these nine were cases in the County Mental Hospital; two were reported from the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital and one from the West Kent General Hospital. The eighteen cases of dysentery notified were all cases in the Kent County Mental Hospital. •

I give below an analysis of the notifications of infections and other diseases, according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred. For this table, I have excluded the cases in the Hospitals.

	High St.	Bridge St.	King St.	Stone St.	Heath	North
Scarlet Fever ..	2	5	6	20	9	4
Diphtheria ..	—	—	2	20	1	2
Pneumonia ..	1	2	—	4	3	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	4	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	1	1	—

Non-notifiable diseases did not reach any especial severity during 1936, though there was a certain amount of chicken-pox, mumps and measles. Epidemic colds, which were often described as influenza, caused a considerable amount of illness, and low attendance at the schools, but school closure was not required in any school during the year.

For the reception of small pox cases from the Borough, an arrangement is made by which the Small-pox Hospital belonging to the Hollingbourn Rural District Council would be used, but fortunately there have been no such cases in the Borough in the past year. This is a happy state of affairs which has continued for some years, but one regrettable result which has come from long freedom from smallpox is that the protection by vaccination is now very largely disregarded and the percentage of unvaccinated and unprotected children in the Borough is growing very large.

The beds available at the Borough Isolation Hospital in Fant Lane, only allow of the admission of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria. There is no accommodation for complicated cases of measles: erysipelas cases can only be admitted to the Public Assistance hospitals; there is no ward for puerperal fever cases, while fevers of the enteric group cannot be sent to the Isolation Hospital but are admitted to the West Kent General Hospital, which is not a desirable system. And even if beds for these diseases were available, there is no room for the nurses and domestic staff which would be needed and the kitchen and laundry now existing are not adequate, even for the present needs of the hospital. The design and lay-out of the hospital make it impossible to use even the present small number of beds to the best advantage: there are only four large wards and any complication such as a case of measles or chicken-pox among the patients, or even the difficulties of age, disease and sex among the cases, complicate the administration of the hospital to a degree. The design of the wards makes them expensive to maintain and heat, and it is increasingly difficult to obtain staff.

There was a proposal some five years ago that the Borough should combine with the neighbouring Rural Districts to provide a larger and more up-to-date hospital to serve all the districts. This was the suggestion from the County Council, but it met with much opposition from the Local Authorities. It certainly has advantages in theory: it might be more economical and it certainly would be easier to staff one larger hospital, than a series of small Isolation Hospitals, but there are grave drawbacks of site, distance and cost of administration, inseparable from an institution serving a combination of authorities, which are particularly notable in the suggested site in this case. The feeling of the Councils concerned was distinctly that of "Sinn Fein"—"Ourselves alone," and for five years the matter has been left undecided. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, for naturally the Maidstone Corporation is loth to embark on a scheme of reconstruction and enlargement of the hospital, until the future of the institution is decided. Additional beds, and space for other diseases than merely scarlet fever and diphtheria are needed: the nurses quarters, the kitchens, bathrooms, laundry and mortuary need extension and improvement: cubicle wards and, I should hope, private wards are required. Space is available for these extensions, but it is necessary that all doubt as to the retention of this hospital should be settled before any such scheme of re-construction could be undertaken.

School notifications of infections and other diseases are sent to me by the Head Teachers of the Public Elementary Schools and also of the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools. These notifications are of very great assistance in the investigation of cases and the discovery of possible contacts. This is particularly the case in the non-notifiable diseases, such as measles and chickenpox, where these school notifications are often the only channel of information.

Particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases—other than tuberculosis—in the area during 1936, are set out below.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	48	43	—
Diphtheria	47	47	3
Pneumonia	12	1	34
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	6	1
Puerperal Fever	1	1	—
Erysipelas... ..	14	12	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—
Dysentery	18	18	—
Totals	149	131	38

The use of the Schick test for determining the presence or absence of natural immunity to diphtheria and the immunisation of those found susceptible, which was begun in 1935, has been continued during 1936, and during the year, 1,266 children attended. Of these, 389 had attended in 1935 and 877 were new cases. The preliminary Schick test is only necessary in the older children and of the 877 new cases, 321 had this preliminary test, and 556 did not. Of those tested, 54 were negative, showing a natural immunity, and 267 were positive, 823 children were therefore treated, and at the end of the year, 493 had completed the course of injections, while 30 remained to have the final dose. Of those who completed the course, 417 had Schick tests to determine the immunity acquired, when 391 were negative and 26 still showed positive reactions and received a further injection. Of the 389 who had attended in 1935, 316 who had completed the course of injections had Schick tests in 1936, 298 were negative, 12 were positive and had another injection, while six did not appear for the examination of the test reaction. 73 who had not completed the course in 1935 finished it in 1936, of these, 66 had Schick tests later when 64 were negative and the two positive cases had a further injection.

I am glad to report that there is a continued desire on the part of parents to have the children immunised, though I should prefer that this was done before the start of school life rather than at a later period. The dangers of diphtheria are well-known and appreciated and the offer of protection against this disease—even if 100% protection cannot be guaranteed—is eagerly accepted. The procedure is simple and causes practically no disturbance—in 1936, there were 8 cases of reaction, only one of which was in any way serious—and the advantages to be gained are so obvious that the parents of numbers of children in the Borough have willingly taken advantage of the facilities offered, and in time I anticipate that a very large proportion of the children will thus be protected against the ravages of this disease.

At present this scheme for immunisation against diphtheria is arranged through the school medical service and is thus available only for the school children, but I should like to have the scheme extended, certainly to include children of pre-school age and if asked for, young adults and adolescents. Our work is too recent and the numbers immunised too small to draw valid conclusions from the results, but the lowering of diphtheria incidence in large centres where much more of this work has been done, shows that by means of this immunisation, diphtheria could be reduced probably to a tenth of its present prevalence—but only by a wide and general acceptance of the protection offered.

No use has yet been made of the serum treatment of measles in the Borough, but a plan is being worked out at the County Laboratory under which such serum can be made available.

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	49	572	621
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	46	258	304
Various	7	27	34
	92	857	959

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

This service is provided by the County Laboratory and it is a great advantage to the Borough to have so efficient a laboratory service at hand. I must record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Laboratory, particularly in the prompt examination of diphtheria swabs. The details of the specimens from the Borough area which have been examined and reported on during the year are shown in the table above.

DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for the disinfection of infected articles or premises have been described in previous reports and have continued to work satisfactorily. During 1936, disinfection of 158 rooms and 2,648 articles was carried out and details of this work are to be found in the Tables at the end of this Report.

F 3. CANCER.

The table of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone for the past 8 years is as follows :—

	number of deaths
1929	67
1930	53
1931	64
1932	70
1933	59
1934	69
1935	66
1936	78

Deaths from Cancer during 1936 under age groups.

Age Periods.	Male.	Female.
0.	—	—
1	—	—
5	1	—
15	—	—
25	1	2
35	—	4
45	3	5
55	10	12
65 and upwards.	18	22
Totals	33	45

No information is available of the incidence of cancer in any particular occupation and it will be noted above that the number of deaths from malignant disease remains fairly constant. For the spread of information, a panel of lecturers has been formed, for which the M.O.H. acts as local secretary, and during the year I have had one request for a lecturer for which arrangements were made.

F 4. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

During 1936, three case of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified and the Table below shows the number admitted to hospital and the result :—

Cases.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	—	3	3	—	—	—

For the treatment of injuries to, or diseases of, the eyes, the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital is available and provides specialist advice and treatment. The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum recorded above were treated in the hospital, with successful results in every case.

F 5. TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during the year 1936.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
5 	1	2	2	2	—	1	4	1
15 	2	8	1	—	1	6	—	1
25 	10	9	3	2	2	6	—	—
35 	—	3	—	1	1	3	1	—
45 	4	1	—	—	4	—	—	—
55 	5	—	1	—	5	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	23	24	7	6	13	16	6	2

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 28. The number which had not been notified was 9.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus 24 to 1.

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	2	6	4	20	7	2	5	—	1	—	48
Diphtheria	—	2	1	2	7	11	6	5	10	—	2	1	47
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	6
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	8	1	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	10	1	18
Totals.....	3	3	3	8	11	32	15	8	33	7	22	4	149

Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	10	1	1	1	..	...	...	...	3	1	9	8	34
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	10	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	4	1	10	8	38

TABLE I.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
All Causes							268	305
1	Typhoid fever, etc....	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	..	2	1
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	..	..	...	...	13	16
10	Other Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	..	6	2
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	..	2	1
12	General paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	33	45
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	..	3	7
15	Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	18	21
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	..	61	81
17	Aneurysm	...	..	...	...	...	2	...
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20	14
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	20	16
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	13	21
21	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
22	Peptic Uleer ..	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..	...	...	...	...	2	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	..	...	2
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
26	Other liver diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
28	Nephritis	...	..	...	...	...	4	7
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
31	Congenital causes, etc.	..	...	...	...	...	9	9
32	Senility	...	...	..	...	...	6	18
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
34	Other Violence	..	...	...	...	...	9	8
35	Other defined causes	..	...	...	...	...	19	18
36	Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	...	..	...	3
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).								
	Small-pox	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
	Polionymyelitis	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE II.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1936. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	13	5	2	2	22	3	8	—	5	38
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	1	1	1	3	—	6	—	1	10
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Enteritis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Injury at birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	2	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	4
Premature birth	4	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	3	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Other Causes	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4
Nett Live Births in the year	{ Legitimate				...	...	...	668		
	{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	28		
Nett Deaths in the year	{ Legitimate				...	...	...	35		
	{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	3		

TABLE III.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1936.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Block, West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	2
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	46
(4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by— (a) Midwives (b) Doctors	33 13
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Daily visits by the Medical Officer.
(7) Number of cases notified as— (a) Puerperal Fever (b) „ Pyrexia	Nil. Nil.
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	Nil.
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	2
(10) Number of cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum Result of treatment in each case	1 Cured.
(11) Number of Maternal deaths Causes of death in each case	Nil. —
(12) (a) Number of Infant Deaths— (i.) Stillborn (ii.) within 10 days of birth (b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable)	3 1 STILLBIRTHS (1) Hydrocephalus (Macerated) (2) Prematurity (Twin 34 weeks Macerated) (3) Breech Presentation Primigravida extended head DEATHS Prematurity (32 weeks)

TABLE IVa.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Boarley Supply.**

(4 Samples).

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

3

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

2

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci absent from 100 c.c.

TABLE IVb.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Cossington Supply.**

(4 Samples).

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

4

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

1

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococciabsent from 100 c.c.

TABLE IVc.**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Forstal Supply.****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimeter living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

2

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

1

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci absent from 100 c.c.

TABLE IVd.**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Cossington Well.****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

2

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

1

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococciabsent from 100 c.c.

TABLE IVe.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Ewell Supply (before Chlorination).****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

58

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

7

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.present in 25 c.c.

B. laetis aerogenespresent in 25 c.c.

Streptococciabsent from 100 c.c.

TABLE IVf.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Ewell Supply (chlorinated).****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

4

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

1

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococciabsent from 100 c.c.

TABLE V.
Forstal Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
4.1.36.	0.00	0.00	.005	.008	33.5	2.21	.39	0.00	21.2	0.00
28.2.36.	0.00	0.00	.0028	.0042	36.5	2.21	.14	0.00	21.4	0.00
27.3.36.	0.00	0.00	.0035	.0035	36.46	1.58	.35	0.00	18.8	0.00
23.4.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	37.24	2.21	.11	0.00	19.6	0.00
23.5.36.	0.00	0.00	.004	.009	38.13	2.21	.17	0.00	20.7	0.00
19.6.36.	0.00	0.00	.0028	.005	38.92	2.25	.21	0.00	20.7	0.00
18.7.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0028	38.22	2.41	.21	0.00	17.6	0.00
14.9.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.006	38.30	2.40	.18	0.00	21.6	0.00
10.10.36.	0.00	0.00	.0007	.005	40.30	2.30	.24	0.00	23.8	0.00
6.11.36.	0.00	0.00	.0007	.003	39.30	2.30	.28	0.00	21.8	0.00
12.12.36.	0.00	0.00	.003	.005	38.8	2.38	.28	0.00	22.4	0.00
Mean results for 1936.	0.00	0.00	.0025	.005	37.79	2.22	.24	0.00	21.1	0.00

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VI.
Cossington Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates	Nitrites.		
4.1.36.	0.00	0.00	.005	.006	22.2	1.19	.18	0.00	14.3	0.00
31.1.36.	0.00	0.00	.0008	.0016	23.31	1.26	.21	0.00	15.4	0.00
28.2.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0028	23.0	1.19	.25	0.00	13.4	0.00
27.3.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.002	23.8	1.51	.37	0.00	13.7	0.00
23.4.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.002	22.96	1.26	.25	0.00	12.9	0.00
23.5.36.	0.00	0.00	.003	.007	22.48	1.29	.07	0.00	13.4	0.00
19.6.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0028	23.16	1.30	.14	0.00	14.0	0.00
18.7.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0012	22.34	1.36	.21	0.00	12.8	0.00
14.9.36.	0.00	0.00	.003	.007	21.8	1.30	.11	0.00	11.6	0.00
10.10.36.	0.00	0.00	.0007	.004	23.5	1.20	.24	0.00	15.1	0.00
6.11.36.	0.00	0.00	.003	.004	22.4	1.15	.26	0.00	11.6	0.00
12.12.36.	0.00	0.00	.001	.004	23.6	1.30	.26	0.00	14.6	0.00
Mean results for 1936.	0.00	0.00	.0021	.004	22.88	1.28	.21	0.00	14.1	0.00

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VII.
Boarley Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
4.1.36.	0.00	0.00	.004	.008	24.4	1.54	.35	0.00	16.0	0.00
31.1.36.	0.00	0.00	.0008	.0024	24.08	1.51	1.28	0.00	15.1	0.00
28.2.36.	0.00	0.00	.0028	.0035	24.8	1.40	.14	0.00	13.4	0.00
27.3.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.002	24.53	1.58	.35	0.00	14.3	0.00
23.4.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.007	24.11	1.40	.22	0.00	14.0	0.00
23.5.36.	0.00	0.00	.004	.007	24.75	1.58	.14	0.00	13.7	0.00
19.6.36.	0.00	0.00	.0013	.005	25.28	1.65	.28	0.00	13.4	0.00
17.7.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0055	31.08	2.06	.36	0.00	15.4	0.00
14.9.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.007	24.2	1.50	.35	0.00	14.9	0.00
10.10.36.	0.00	0.00	.001	.007	26.3	1.40	.56	0.00	16.0	0.00
6.11.36.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	25.6	1.45	.49	0.00	14.0	0.00
12.12.36.	0.00	0.00	.002	.006	26.5	1.47	.49	0.00	14.8	0.00
Mean results for 1936.	0.00	0.00	.002	.0055	25.47	1.55	.43	0.00	14.6	0.00

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VIII.
Ewell Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
19.6.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0035	32.76	1.96	.17	0.00	17.7	0.00
18.7.36.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0042	30.24	1.99	.31	0.00	15.5	0.00
14.9.36.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	28.2	1.90	.25	0.00	16.2	0.00
10.10.36.	0.00	0.00	.0007	.003	29.9	1.80	.24	0.00	17.1	0.00
12.12.36.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	30.2	1.93	.26	0.00	16.5	0.00
Mean results for 1936.	0.00	0.00	.0019	.0039	30.30	1.92	.25	0.00	16.6	0.000

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE IX.
Vital Statistics for 1936 and previous years.

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	Averages for 10 years	1936
Death-Rate ...	11·2	12·3	10·6	12·6	11·7	11·2	12·2	11·5	10·7	10·3	11·4	11·2
Birth-Rate ...	15·7	15·1	15·9	15·9	16·1	15·2	14·8	13·7	13·8	14·0	15·0	14·8
Infant Mortality Rate	51	39	40	50	58	47	51	31	38	40	45	55
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·82	·74	·59	·81	·96	·76	·63	·96	·70	·88	·79	·62
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·19	·25	·17	·20	·25	·17	·21	·09	·20	·11	·20	·17
Diphtheria ...	—	·02	·02	·07	—	·07	·07	·05	·09	·06	·05	·06
Scarlet Fever ...	—	·05	·07	—	—	—	—	·02	·04	—	·02	—

TABLE X.
**Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality
in the year 1936.**

(The rates of England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1936, but those for London and the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1935. The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population but for London, Maidstone and the towns to civilians only).

	Rate per 1,000 population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths un- der one year
England and Wales	14·8	·61	12·1	·01	—	·07	·01	·05	·07	·14	·52	5·9	59
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14·9	·67	12·3	·01	—	·09	·01	·06	·08	·14	·45	8·2	63
143 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	15·0	·64	11·5	·00	—	·04	·01	·04	·05	·15	·39	3·4	55
London ...	13·6	·53	12·5	·01	—	·14	·01	·06	·05	·14	·52	14·4	66
Maidstone ...	14·8	·53	11·2	—	—	·06	—	·02	·06	·04	·36	4·6	38

The maternal mortality rates are as follows:—

		Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
per 1,000	{ England and Wales	1·40	2·41	3·81
Live Births.	{ Maidstone ...	—	1·44	1·44
per 1,000	{ England and Wales	1·34	2·31	3·65
Total Births.	{ Maidstone ...	—	1·39	1·39

TABLE XI.

**List of Rooms and Articles Disinfected
during 1936.**

Month.	Blankets.	Sheets.	Counterpanes.	Mattresses.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Curtains.	Bed-chair Cushions.	Beds.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.	Rooms.
January ...	30	26	9	13	23	10	29	—	9	70	219	18
February ...	32	26	8	13	23	9	20	6	7	47	191	11
March ...	30	22	9	22	34	9	31	—	9	86	252	13
April ...	51	23	11	24	43	11	28	—	10	105	306	18
May ...	32	14	4	16	27	5	26	—	6	63	193	10
June ...	46	18	8	21	37	9	24	—	7	82	252	13
July ...	25	18	9	10	18	8	26	3	7	65	189	11
August ...	28	19	9	11	22	8	22	—	6	72	197	15
September	31	28	9	14	24	10	40	—	7	112	275	14
October ...	27	25	10	13	19	8	20	3	7	72	204	13
November...	34	28	9	17	25	9	24	12	7	82	247	16
December ...	15	14	5	7	11	7	16	3	5	40	123	6
Totals ...	381	261	100	181	306	103	306	27	87	896	2648	158

METEOROLOGY.

The detail of meteorological observations is set forth in Table XII.

The mean reading of the barometer for the year is 29·67, the highest mean being for December 29·93, and the lowest for January 29·37.

The hottest month was July, giving a mean of the maximum readings of the thermometer in the shade of 73°, and the mean of the minimum readings of 53°, while the coldest month was February, with a mean of the maximum readings of 41° and a mean of the minimum readings of 30°.

The prevailing winds were S.W., there being 104 days on which the wind was in this quarter.

The total rain-fall for the year was 28·74 inches, the heaviest amount falling in January, viz., 4·80 inches, while in May the amount registered was only ·17 inches, this being the driest month of the year.

There were 196 days in the year on which ·01 of an inch or more rain fell.

TABLE XII.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGY 1936, RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.
(Taken Daily at 9 a.m.)

MONTH.	RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.							
	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ...	2	—	2	6	8	9	1	3
February ...	1	2	—	3	7	10	5	1
March ...	—	2	5	3	12	3	5	1
April ...	3	8	7	—	3	4	2	3
May ...	2	9	5	1	7	1	4	2
June ...	—	—	4	2	8	10	3	3
July ...	—	—	1	3	4	17	—	6
August ...	—	—	6	1	3	14	4	3
September ...	1	2	6	3	5	9	2	2
October ...	1	2	3	2	1	7	7	8
November ...	6	1	7	4	2	5	3	2
December ...	—	—	3	2	5	15	—	6
Totals ...	16	26	49	30	65	104	36	40

MONTH.	Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.).	Average Thermo- meter (Min.).	RAINFALL.	No. OF DAYS ON WHICH '01 FELL.
January ...	29.37	43	34	4.80	24
February ...	29.52	41	30	1.96	17
March ...	29.60	50	37	1.18	12
April ...	29.73	50	37	1.58	12
May ...	29.73	63	45	.17	4
June ...	29.65	71	50	4.12	23
July ...	29.50	73	53	2.67	23
August ...	29.77	70	52	1.01	12
September ...	29.70	65	50	2.22	17
October ...	29.86	54	39	2.46	18
November ...	29.72	48	37	4.25	18
December ...	29.93	45	35	2.31	16
Averages & Totals for the Year	29.67	56	42	28.74	196

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Population (estimated 1936)	...	...	...	...	46,980
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	8,172
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1936) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	12,295
Average Number of Persons per House (1921)	...	...	...	...	4·6
Average Number of Persons per House (1936)	..	...	...	...	3·8
Area	...	...	...	...	5,972 acres
Density	...	...	...	...	7·9 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate	...	...	per 1,000 population	...	14·8
Annual Death Rate	...	...	„	„	11·2
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	„	„	·62
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	„	„	„	„	·17
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	54·6
Live Births ...	{ Males, 348 } { Females, 348 }				696
Deaths ...	{ Males, 268 } { Females, 305 }				573
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	...	123

Elevation.—The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.

